



Dairy: Mentor-Producer Certification Checklist

Producer present: _____ Mentor: _____

Farm name: _____ Date of visit: _____

List crops, livestock, and products intended for certification:

1. Collaborate with the producer(s) to complete the following table (S.W.O.T. analysis).
Objective: Evaluate the operation's current position for success relative to organic certification.
- 2.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS

3. It is recommended that the accompanying guidelines document is reviewed with the producer during the visit. This will ensure that the following checklist topics were addressed. Spend more time with the critical issues as identified in the SWOT analysis.



Written and designed by staff at the Northeast Organic Farming Association of Vermont. This product was developed with support from U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Marketing Service, National Organic Program.

The following checklist is to be completed by the mentor following the visit.

Objective: Explore and troubleshoot areas of high risk/concern. Identify areas for additional support and follow-up.

	Y	N	N/A
7 CFR §205.202 – Land requirements			
Does the land intended for use with certified livestock qualify for organic production?			
Does the producer monitor soil fertility?			
§205.236 – Origin of livestock			
Is the producer transitioning livestock into organic production?			
Does the producer have a record system to track the identity of individual livestock that includes birthdates (or purchase dates), organic slaughter status, and cull records?			
If producer is producing organic and non-organic livestock, does the record system clearly differentiate the groups?			
§205.237 – Livestock feed			
Will the producer be purchasing feed? If so, do they have a reliable and certified source(s)?			
If producer is producing organic and non-organic livestock, is there risk of co-mingling of organic and non-organic feed?			
Does the producer plan to supplement livestock feed with minerals or salt? If so, are these supplements approved?			
§205.238 – Livestock health care			
Does the producer understand the basics of dairy animal needs for nourishment, reduction of stress, and resistance to disease and parasites?			
Does the producer plan to physically alter livestock (includes dehorning)? If yes, is there a protocol in place?			
Does the producer understand regulations on parasiticide and antibiotic use?			
Does the producer have a preventative parasite management plan in place?			
Does the producer understand regulations on health care products?			
§205.239 – Livestock living conditions			
Does the producer understand the requirements for outdoor access?			
Do current facilities on the operations allow for routine outdoor access?			
If the producer will be using roughages for bedding, do they have a reliable source of certified roughages?			
Does producer understand regulations on treated wood?			
Do facilities have adequate space for all ruminant livestock?			
Does current housing allow for natural maintenance and dairy animal comfort behaviors?			
§205.240 – Pasture practice			
Does the producer have a pasture plan in place that meets the organic standards?			
Does the pasture plan allow pasture access for all ruminant livestock over 6 months of age?			



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Are all ruminants that are over 6 months of age meeting the 30% DMI from pasture for 120 day standard requirement?			
§205.203 – Soil fertility and crop nutrient management			
Does the manure management system pose a risk of contamination to soil and/or water quality?			
Are there erosion or conservation issues on the farm?			
§205.102 – Slaughter			
Does the producer intend to market certified meat? If yes, do they use a certified slaughter facility?			
§205.103 – Recordkeeping by certified operations			
Does the producer have a record keeping system that is “readily auditable” (accessible, organized, complete) as required?			
Does the producer have a record keeping system that allows a third party to trace management from birth/purchase to death/sales?			

Comments/Areas for additional support and follow-up:



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